

Why Haven't I Leaped Yet?:
Or Why Scott Bakula Could Change The World.

By

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ACT I

Heather is sitting on a couch watching TV. Stephanie walks in and takes off her jacket. She stands behind the couch and looks at the TV.

HEATHER

Hey Steph.

STEPHANIE

Hey Heather.

(pause)

What are you watching?

HEATHER

Quantum Leap.

STEPHANIE

Oh.

Stephanie and Heather watch the show for a couple seconds, while Stephanie still stands.

STEPHANIE

I know that guy.

HEATHER

It's Scott Bakula.

STEPHANIE

Oh.

Stephanie leaves the room, Heather keeps watching TV. Stephanie comes back with a coffee.

STEPHANIE

He's Chuck's dad!

HEATHER

You know his son?

STEPHANIE

No. The show Chuck. It's Chuck's dad.

HEATHER

I don't watch Chuck.

STEPHANIE

What?

HEATHER

Is that weird?

STEPHANIE

Everybody watches Chuck Heather.

HEATHER

Not everybody.

Stephanie sits down.

STEPHANIE

Everybody!

HEATHER

Well maybe now that I know he's on it. Me and my sisters used to watch this show when we were kids. We wanted him to be our new dad.

STEPHANIE

What did your mom think of that?

HEATHER

She was OK with it but Dad wasn't too pleased.

STEPHANIE

Why not?

HEATHER

I have no idea. He came around when he started doing Star Trek.

STEPHANIE

Makes sense.

HEATHER

Well yeah, if your going to be replaced by someone, who better than the captain of the Enterprise?

STEPHANIE

Exactly.

Stephanie watches the show for a couple seconds with Heather.

STEPHANIE

Is it in the sixties?

HEATHER

This episode is. It's about time travel.

STEPHANIE

Like Back to the Future.

HEATHER

Not really.

STEPHANIE

Like Lost?

HEATHER

I've never watched Lost.

STEPHANIE

You never watched Lost?

HEATHER

No.

STEPHANIE

Everybody watched Lost Heather.

HEATHER

(angry look)

STEPHANIE

Everybody.

Stephanie and Heather watch the TV for a little while longer.

STEPHANIE

Why is he black?

HEATHER

Really?

STEPHANIE

That guy he's black.

HEATHER

Well humans have adapted to their surroundings. After thousands of years living in separate parts of the world people are bound to start looking different.

STEPHANIE

No, Chuck's dad, why is he black?

HEATHER

Scott Bakula.

STEPHANIE

Why do they talk about Scott Bakula like he's black?

HEATHER

Because in this episode he's black.

STEPHANIE
Why?

Heather gets up and starts leaving the room.

HEATHER
Well in 1999 he was working on a secret government time travel project and prematurely stepped into the Project Accelerator and now he finds himself leaping from life to life, putting things right, that once went wrong.

Heather Leave

STEPHANIE
(yelling to Heather)
So he becomes different people?

HEATHER
(From off stage)
Yup.

STEPHANIE
That would be awesome.

Heather comes back in the room with two Twinkies. She hands one to Stephanie.

HEATHER
Yeah it would be pretty sweet...

STEPHANIE
I mean I don't care about the time machine part.

HEATHER
(In the middle of eating her twinkie)
Why not? Time travel is the best part.

STEPHANIE
Meh.

HEATHER
Not meh. You can't meh time travel. Can you imagine what you could do with time travel?

STEPHANIE
Yeah what we could do... We could gain more power. Something humans need more of.

HEATHER
You could rewrite history. Undo our mistakes.

STEPHANIE

Undo our mistakes?

HEATHER

Yeah. Stop Hitler. Stop 9/11.

STEPHANIE

I guess but then what?

HEATHER

Hitler would be dead.

STEPHANIE

But then someone else will just will kill a bunch of people.

HEATHER

We don't know that.

STEPHANIE

Why go for Hitler?

HEATHER

Because everyone knows he's the first person you go after if you we figure out time travel.

STEPHANIE

He was a result of what happened to Germany after World War 1, and the Great Depression, and a number of other factors. So what would rise in his place?

HEATHER

Then we stop the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. Find a way to stop the stock market from crashing.

STEPHANIE

But then what? What takes their place? It's like I had this dog, Buddy, when I was really young and I loved that dog we did everything together. Then one day he saw a squirrel run across the road and dashed across to chase it. He was struck by a jeep and died. I cried for so long.

(pause)

That Christmas I got a new puppy, Polly, and we became best friends and she became the new family dog. She was with me all through high school and she died of old age when I was in college.

(pause)

So. I'm still sad when I think about what happened to Buddy. But if I went back and stopped it I wouldn't have had Polly, who I also loved.

HEATHER

Polly is a bird's name.

STEPHANIE

I'm glad you got the point.

HEATHER

But you can't compare that with the biggest atrocity of the modern era. With time travel we get a do over. We have a clearer picture of what needs to be done.

STEPHANIE

(begins to open her twinkie)

For example without the Second World War we wouldn't have Twinkies, at least not as we know them.

HEATHER

What?

STEPHANIE

Before World War 2 they had a banana filling, and sales weren't very good. Then World War 2 hit and bananas were being rationed, so they switched to a vanilla filling. Now everyone loves them.

Stephanie takes a big bite of her Twinkie.

HEATHER

Stephanie. You are the nicest person I know. You can't possibly tell me you wouldn't give up Twinkies to ensure the Holocaust didn't happen.

STEPHANIE

Maybe not the best example.

HEATHER

No.

STEPHANIE

But cause and effect. We just don't know what would be different, what would change. Why should we have this power?

HEATHER

It would be a chance to do something great.

STEPHANIE

Learning from our mistakes would be great too.

HEATHER

Sure but look at the twentieth century. World War II led to the Cold War, which led to the Vietnam War, and in many ways the Gulf War.

STEPHANIE

And Feminism. And countless life saving technologies and medicines.

HEATHER

And the Jeep.

STEPHANIE

Right... Ok. I don't know what I would do, and I don't know what would happen, but I think that's the point we don't know. Who are we to decide?

HEATHER

Well Sam doesn't decide anything.

STEPHANIE

Sam?

HEATHER

Scott Bakula.

STEPHANIE

So call him that.

HEATHER

Sorry. Scott Bakula doesn't choose anything. He's hoping that his next leap will be the leap home. So we're arguing over nothing.

STEPHANIE

Then who does decide?

HEATHER

God, or someone mysterious, he shows up in the finale.

STEPHANIE

No.

HEATHER

No?

STEPHANIE

If there is a God, and he can travel through time, I can't see him trusting us with that power.

HEATHER

What? That's what religion is about. God giving power to people on earth. Humans carrying out his mission.

STEPHANIE

Pfft...

HEATHER

What?

STEPHANIE

I said, "pfft."

HEATHER

Yes. Why did you "pfft" people on a mission?

STEPHANIE

We always screw it up. And do you know why?

HEATHER

Why Stephanie?

STEPHANIE

'Cause we like ourselves too much. We ignore the terrible things that happen around us and we buy an iPad or a really nice popcorn maker.

HEATHER

Popcorn maker?

STEPHANIE

We can't be trusted with time travel because we'll just use it to go back and invent the french fry first, or invest in Google. We won't use it to stop Stalin, or Hitler, or Bin Laden.

(pause)

Do you know how I know that?

HEATHER

Because there are terrible things happening all around us and all we want to do is tweet about how much we love our new sneakers?

STEPHANIE

Yep. Now do you know why becoming another person is more awesome?

HEATHER

Why?

STEPHANIE

Perspective.

HEATHER

OK.

STEPHANIE

What do you think he learns the most from? Changing the past or being someone else?

HEATHER

Being someone else?

STEPHANIE

I'd think so.

HEATHER

But everyone would choose to be a rockstar or a billionaire, what perspective would that bring?

STEPHANIE

Everyone sees the world differently, being someone else will give you a glimpse of that even if it's a rockstar. But what if God chooses who like with Scott Bakula?

(pause)

Like, earlier this week I was walking home from work and I started talking to a homeless person. His name is Greg. He's usually in the same place and we talk sometimes. I found out that he used to be in a band and we started talking about music, he was a bass player like me. He's had some addictions, but in so many ways we have a lot in common.

HEATHER

So for a second you did know what it was to be him.

STEPHANIE

Yeah but then this police officer came up and told him to move along.

(pause)

Move along? We were having a conversation. Two business men were talking a few feet away from us and they weren't told to move along.

(pause)

I started to say something, and she interrupted me and repeated it, "Move Along!"

HEATHER

Yeah I guess if the police officer could be Greg for a day...

STEPHANIE

Yeah, but I've hated her all week. What if I was her? Even for a day. She didn't become a cop to make people angry she became a cop to make a difference. What's her story? Maybe if the three of us could just rotate. I become the cop, she becomes Greg, and Greg becomes me. Even for a little while. I bet all three of our lives would change.

HEATHER

If we all could just understand each others stories things would change.

STEPHANIE

Yeah that would be pretty awesome wouldn't it?

HEATHER

Yep.

STEPHANIE

And another thing.

HEATHER

What?

STEPHANIE

(pointing at the screen)

Why does that man keep appearing?

HEATHER

That's Al. He's a hologram from the future.

STEPHANIE

Oh. I like that.

Stephanie and Heather continue to watch TV.

THE END